

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3779

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ'S VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT WITHIN AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 3744

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ FOR LENGTHY TOUR D' HORIZON
MAY 20 PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE FOR HOME LEAVE. MUCH OF DISCUSSION
CENTERED ON PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT.
(OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPTELS.)

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2. I INITIATED CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE PLEASED WITH PROGRESS MADE IN NARCOTICS FIELD TO DATE AND COOPERATION THUS FAR EXTENDED, WE WERE NOW ENCOUNTERING CERTAIN VERY IMPORTANT DIFFICULTIES ON WHICH I NEEDED TO HAVE THE FRANKEST POSSIBLE DISCUSSION PRIOR TO MY FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. I SAID THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN NARCOTICS "INSTALLATIONS" IN AFGHANISTAN WHICH WERE CURRENTLY UNTOUCHABLE BY AFGHAN ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY BECAUSE THEY WERE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF POWERFUL PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. I THEN CITED IN DETAIL, AS I HAD DONE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THOSE PORTIONS OF EXISTING US LAW WHICH SPECIFY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE TERMINATED TO COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT TAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. (I ALSO AGAIN LEFT THE APPROPRIATE TEXTUAL CITATIONS WITH HIM). REFERRING TO THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR A BROAD NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, I SAID THAT MY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS MUST HAVE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS SUCH AS "HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WILL ENFORCE THE LAW WHEN THEY ARE CONFRONTED WITH POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFIC, WHETHER OR NOT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS FORTHCOMING?".

3. SHAFIQ REPLIED THAT THESE WERE FAIR QUESTIONS, AND BY IMPLICATION LEFT AN INFERENCE THAT HE WAS WELL BRIEFED ON THE PROBLEM TO WHICH I HAD ALLUDED. (HE MADE A POINT OF SAYING HE WAS KEPT FULLY INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WHICH HE REGARDED AS THE "SUPERIOR ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM" IN THIS GOVERNMENT AND ABOUT WHOSE WORK HE SPOKE WITH ADMIRATION. HE LEFT A CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE THE SAME KIND OF COOPERATION FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE).

4. PRIMIN CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT THE USG SHOULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WHAT A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO DO AND THAT WHICH IT CAN DO WITHIN PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT FOR HIM THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING IS A MATTER OF A "SACRED MISSION", AND THAT HE WOULD PURSUE IT EVEN IF HE WERE NOT PRIME MINISTER BUT MERELY A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS FIGHT WAS NOT ONE WHICH RELATED ONLY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE CORRUPT FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

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INVOLVED IN THE DRUG TRAFFIC WERE ALSO THOSE WHICH IMPEDED AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD MODERNIZATION ON MANY OTHER FRONTS, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FIGHT FOR ENLIGHTENMENT AND PROGRESS FOR HIS NATION AS A WHOLE.

5. SHAFIQ THEN SPOKE WITH WHAT I BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN GREAT

FRANKNESS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS HE FACED. HE SAID THAT HE COULD DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WHICH INVOLVED TAKING ACTION AGAINST PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES UNTIL THE RATIFICATION OF THE HELMAND WATERS TREATY WAS ACCOMPLISHED, WHICH HE HOPED AND BELIEVED WOULD BE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. (SEE SEPTEL FOR SHAFIQ' S COMMENTS ABOUT DIFFICULTIES OVER THE RATIFICATION PROCESS.) HE CONTINUED THAT HE HOPED THE USG AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD LOOK AT AFGHANISTAN' S ENFORCEMENT NEEDS, ANALYZE THEM AS TO WHAT EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING AS WELL AS BROADER RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, AND PREPARE TO ASSIST IN ALL THESE FIELDS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HE STRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO CARRY OUT A SERIOUS BROAD PROGRAM ALONG THE LINES OF THE UN REPORT ONCE THE HELMAND TREATY PROBLEM WAS BEHIND HIM. HE SAID THAT " OF COURSE I COULD EVEN NOW MAKE A SHOW FOR YOU BY JAILING A FEW POPPY GROWERS, BUYING UP PART OF THE OPIUM CROP TO BURN IT CEREMONIOUSLY. PERHAPS THIS WOULD MAKE SOME OF YOUR OFFICIALS HAPPY AND THEY MIGHT EVEN BELIEVE IT WAS PROGRESS, BUT ACTUALLY IT WOULD MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN THE OVERALL PROBLEM AND WE SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH CHARADES." RATHER, SHAFIQ SUGGESTED THAT ONCE THE HELMAND TREATY HAD BEEN RATIFIED, WE SHOULD PRESENT TO THE AFGHAN ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES SOME TEST CASES IN WH
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